Word of “Quran!”
(Its origin and synonymous)

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The word Quran is originated from ‘qara’ and it is with hamzah (and its origin in the Holy Quran as the Quranic verse exposes:

(19)

Translation: And (it is) a Quran that We have divided that you may recite it toward mankind at intervals and We have revealed it by (successive) revelation.

Richard Bell studied historically the Holy Quran without considering its advent conditions and according to his suggestion, the term of Quran was used in the religious literature of the Muslims in 614 A.D. and it reached its and in 624 A.D. whereas the usage of the word Quran is evident from the revelation of the Holy Quran.(20) As far as the literal meaning of the word Quran is concerned, it has partially explained. The explanation of the Holy Quran on which all the legislatures (Fuqaha) and the scholars of Arab have unanimously agreed upon and the philosopher have followed it, that the literary message in which every characteristics of the message are included and which should be from Allah and especially bestowed upon the Holy Prophet (SAW) is called the Holy Quran. In this book, there is a long list of Divine vocabulary and with its revelation, the recitation of the previous books were canceled.(21) During the revelation on the Holy Prophet, the Divine vocabulary were used. Every common and important Divine words are in fact Quranic revelation. The script is called with the famous name the Holy Quran. This name was frequently used in the presence of the Holy Prophet (SAW) and this word has frequently used in the Holy Quran. The Holy Prophet (SAW) was ordered to recite the Holy Quran by using the same word.

(22)

And when you recite the Quran, seek refuge in Allah from satan the execrable.

According to the earliest attested tradition the term of the Al-Quran is used for the “Holy Quran”. This word has been used for 70 times in the Holy Quran. The western researchers have explained with the help of “F.Schwally’s” suggestion that the real origin of “the Holy Quran” has been derived from the syriac word Keryana which means a “religious scripture” or such a book which must be read regularly, and the same meaning of this word has been presented in the Christian literature also.(1)

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The Muslim scholars' point of view about the origin of the Al-Quran is consisted of different arguments and opinion. According to some traditions, it is considered with Hamzah and some traditions suggest it without Hamzah .

A.T. Welch, the author of 'Encyclopaedia of Islam', it is the tradition of 'Qatada' and 'Abu Ubaida' to suggest this word without Hamzah because those are who read it with Hamzah.(2)

The difference about this matter as follow:

According to one tradition, Imam Shafi says that the word 'Al-Quran' which is added with the prefix of superiority "Alif-Lam-Miem", is neither derived nor with Hamzah rather it is a non-derivable word and it is used as a name for this Holy message, which was revealed upon the Holy Prophet (SAW). According to Imam Shafi , this word is not originated from Qira'at 'Recitation'. If the origin of 'Quran' was the word of the derived from 'Qira'at, every readable book would be called 'Quran'. In fact, it is not correct. According to Imam Shafi, 'Quran' is the name of the 'Divine book' like 'Anjeel and Taurat."

According to the other tradition, the saying of 'Fara' (d207 A.H.) that Quran is originated from the word 'qarain' which singular is qarina (that means symbol). Quranic verses are similar with one another that's why they are the symbol for one another. It is evident that 'Noon' is real in the word 'qarain' .(4). That's why Quran cannot be originated from the qira'at . According to one saying, the meaning of 'Al-qira'atu is the collection of words and sentences in an accordance, because qira'at is not the pronunciation of just one word and neither, usually it is used for the plural of every thing.(5) On the other hand, according to 'Al-Harvi', to probe the plural of everything is qira'at .

The third tradition is consisted of a saying of Imam Ashari (d 324 A.H.) and their followers. According to them, the word Quran is originated from (the interlink of one thing with the other) because the aya or verses and surahs of the Holy Quran are interlinked that's why, it is called the 'Quran' for the benefits and consequences of all the recitals are in it. (8)

To prove that the Al-Quran without Hamzah in all these above traditions, is the evidence of the fact that this ideology is the antithesis according to the ideology of rules of derivation and format language. The persons who suggest that Quran is with Hamzah, their suggestions as follow:

Z'ajaj (d 311 A.H.) says that Quran is with Hamzah according to the usage of verbs (grammar). It's origin is al-qarau (to collect). It is used in Arabic language i.e. to collect water in a pond. This word Quran is used for the Holy Quran because the benefits and consequences of all the previous revelations have been collected in it.(9)

The second tradition is the saying of Allama al-Hayani (d 215 A.H.) that Quran is with Hamzah due to the infinitive "ghufran" (rationalise-logical). Its origin 'qura-u' (recite) is used for the 'Quran' because it is recited as if infinitive is used for noun object.(10)

The second tradition is much more authentic and logical. The word 'Quran" is an infinitive like 'qira'at' as both of them have no difference between meaning and explanation. As Allah says,

Translation: Surely its collection and recitation are our responsibility. So as we recite it, follow its reading.(11)

In the period of ignorance, when the Arab were accustomed to the word "qirah", they began to use it for other meanings instead of reciting. They spoke:

Translation: Neither this camel (female) became pregnant not it gave birth to any child.

The famous poet of the ignorance peoride Umer bin Kalsoom says:

This word 'qirah' is used for seventeen times in the Holy Quran. It is usually used for reading whereas its meaning is recitation.(13)

Subhi Sa'lahe explains the discussion about the word 'qara' by saying that 'qara' means reading or recitation. The Arab derived it from the Arami.(14) They used in their language because Bergistrasser says that Arami, African and Persian languages have impressed the Arabic with great fashion because these languages were the possession of those nations who were greatly civilized and cultured and these nations were

inhabitants of the surrounding areas of the Arab teritory before the migration. That's why, according to Subhi Sa'lahe, the word 'qara' was originated from the Arami. The Arab had begun to use this word for the meaning of recitation before Islam. It is surely evident that the Arab had made it Arabic therefore, the Divine book can be given name 'Quran'. A.T.Welch has explained in the Encyclopeadia of Islam that the origin of word Quran was derived from Arami.(15)

Al-Mwati suggests that it is not doubtful that many orientalists and the experts of Hadith (Muhadseen) were very impressed by the discussion on the Arabic lasnguage as Subhi Sa'lahe explained that the meaning of the word 'qara' is recitation and it was derived from the Arami language and it has probed excellently. It is possible that the thing which the Arab used before Islam, it will be used accordingly these days and this thing is enough appreciatable for the foreign vocabulary, as the use of name of Quran was, common before the advent of Islam whereas the Divine book Quran was not the modern book for the Arab rather this is consisted of Tauheed belief, which was unfamiliar for the Arab.(16) The idea of Qatrab in the 'Lasan-ul-Arab" is inappropriate(17) because the meaning of the word 'qara' in the sense of revelation and the Arab usage is concerned with the meaning of 'Tala' . In this way, this kind of discussion has been continuing in the grammar or language book for the ancient times and the researchers could not get the root whereas the argument is evident and any suggestions and comments are not essential to explain.

As far as the difference in the research of the Ulmas about the origin of the word 'Quran' is concerned, Imam Sauti has adopted the suggestion of Imam Shafi and Alusi is also of the view. Imam Sauti has followed Imam Shafi just for the sake of religious dogma and he has never discussed any argument nor explained anything. No doubt, the real infinitive of Quran, according to Zajaj and Al-Hayani, is with hamzah and its explanation is verses of Surah Al-Qayama.(18)

As far as is concerned, the Ulams adopted this suggestion at the advent of the Holy Quran and said that Quran was originated from qarian and was without hamzah.

SYNONYMOUS QURANIC WORDS

It is very difficult to understand the terminology of the Holy Quran and the correct religious script of the Muslims completely, whenever, the similarity in the usage of Quranic and other terminology. Among them, specially Aya, Kitab (book), Sura, dhikr, (rememberance), Mathani, Hikma, (Wisdom) and other similar words are included. Every terminology has been probed according to the specific meaning of the Holy Quran but the trend in the usage of the Quran and these terminologies is the same in the script. Quran is the name of the Holy Script which has been gained from the collection of those terminologies which were revealed to the Holy Prophet (SAW). (23)

1. Aya:

Aya is a symbol according to the Syriac and the Hebrew. Aya is the plural of ayat. This word has been used in the Holy Quran for 382 times. It is used for the symbol of time. In some written scriptures, an extra-ordinary event and a miracle have also been called ayat. The verification of the prophethood of Muhammad (SAW) has been proved by ayat.(24) Since the present days of Madina, the word aya was started to use for the Divine message. Aya is the symbol which appears at the end of a specific area of the Holy Quran. The collection of words are probed through the use of ayat in the Holy Quran.(25)

2. Kitab: (Scripture)

(Kitab) Scripture is the name of collecting the writing words and to write the words.(26) This word has been used as singular for 292 times and for 6 times as a plural in the Holy Quran.(27) The Quran is called Al-Kitab because it is a scripture and it has been written according to the rules of a specific grammar. Allah says:

(28) [illegible]

This is the scripture (Book) where there is no doubt.

Another Divine revelation is:

(29) [illegible]

All the praise be to Allah who had revealed the scripture toward His slave, and had not placed therin an obliquity.

All the praise is due to Allah who bestowed this Al-Kitab (the Holy Quran) and there is no flaw in it. Scripture means such a fiction (Sahifa) which should be in a written form. According to one tradition Al-Kitab means 'Taurat'(30) and the Jews and the Christian have been named the ahl al-Kitab in the Holy Quran.(31)

3. Sura: Surat:

The word 'Sura' has been used as singular for 9 times and as a plural for once in the Holy Quran. The word sura has been derived from the origin "seen, wou, ra". (س و ر) According to one tradition, this word

has been derived from the Syriac word “Suratan” (سورتا)(the readable scripture).(32)

The sura of the Holy Quran is derived from surr-ul-Madina because the Holy Quran is surrounded by the surah like the boundary walls of a city that’s why it is called surat-ul-Qaran. Or the word surah is derived from status or stages according to its literal meaning and surat has also different stages like lunar cycle that’s why it is called surat and both derivations can be acceptable whenever the “wow” (واو)should be recognized authentic. If surat is regarded with hamzah (, it would be derived from Asaratu(أ سارت)(33) which means to leave something and surat is a piece or a part of the Holy Quran, that’s why it is called surat. The pegans of Mecca were challenged to create a surat like the surat of the Holy Quran.(34)

And if you are in doubt concerning that which We reveal toward ourselves then produce a surah of the like there.

Allah says that:

(Here is) a surah which We revealed.

4. Remembrance: Dhikr

“Zikar” means to remember or explain which has been used for remembrance or warning in the revelation.(35) This word has been used for 272 times in the Holy Quran. Zikar means the Holy Quran and the Divine religion.(36) The Holy Quran has been given the name “Al-Zikar” because Allah has given advices and warnings in it and has ordered to act upon the liabilities and duties and has exposed the mystery and wisdom as Allah says:

This is only warning for mankind.

Remembrance also means the detailed summary of other ancient nations, prophets and religions.(37)

5. Mathani: Masani (مثانی)

The meaning and usage of Mathani has been remaining problematic for the Muslim scholars according to A.T.Welch. The western scholars have a large number of ideologies about Mathani.

The word Mathani has been derived from the Hebrew language. In Arabic, mathani has been derived from ‘Mathni (Masna مثنی) which means figure or repetition. Its most interesting usage has been done perfectly in the moral stories.(38) This word has been used for twice in the Holy Quran.(39)

According to Imam Raghib, mathani can be the derivation of “Sana” (ثناء) which means to warn about an order i.e., such topics would be

the part of the Holy Quran which would be the cause of tribute for its readers, students and its followers.(40)

At one place Allah says:

(41) [illegible]

Translation: And We bestowed you (Sab'a Mathani) Sur'ah) seven off repeated.

In this ayat, the surahs of the Holy Quran are called Mathani(42) because they would be repeated and remembered since Maclinan days but it would nor be deterioted neither it would be ended with the passage of time. In this way, Allah says that:

(43) [illegible]

Translation: Allah has sent down the very best discourse as a Book conformable in juxtaposition.

It is also used for surah "Fateha".(44) (سورۃالفاتحه)

Bukhari, Darmi, Masnand Abu Daud, Tarmazi and Ibne Abi Hatim have explained that Abu Hureara probed from the Holy Prophet that he said that [illegible] Umm-ul-Quran, Umm-ul-Kitab and 'Saba' Mathani.(45) In other tradition is from Ubai bin Ka'ab that the Holy Prophet (PBUH) said that Allah did not bestow surah like "Fateha" (تحه فا)in Tura't and Bibal, it is umm-ul-Quran and 'Saba' Mathani. In the following Hadith, it is evident that the revelation towards other prophets was consisted of only one factor(28) but according to famous orientalist John Wanbrough, it is irritable to say that the matter of examining or evaluating the Hadith of the Muslims started in the end of the second century.(46)

The other explanations of Mathani are, as follow:

The terminology of Mathani means a thing which should be repeated frequently and it should be comprised of every kind of news, incidents and the fable of paradise and hell.(47)

Mathani means such ayat, in which the same explanation should be repeated again and again even with other different vocabulary and syntax.

Mathani is the last ayat of any surah such as in a qwafi, the same thing comes again and again.(48)

Hassan and Akrama suggest that the remembrance of 'qaza' (قضاء) is Mathani.

Ibne Isa says that Mathani is the consistency in the recitation and its beauty. In other tradition, Ibne Isa says that the presence of Tafseer of one part in the other part is in fact Mathani.

Mathani means the last part of the ayat and it also means the Holy Quran (Ibne Bahr).(49)

Ibne Abbas (RA) says that(50) [illegible] it means umm-ul-Quran and it is repeated in every prayer (صلوة).(51)

Mathani means orders (Ahkam) Amar and Nahi, wada aur waeed and advice. As it is reported in Hadith [illegible] and Quran is called Mathani because it verifies the authenticity of previous events.(52)

[illegible]

Mathani means seven ayat and seven ways of forgiveness.(53)
Mathani is the recitation of surah Fateha in every namaz (prayer).
The thing which argues on the Hamad (حمد) aur Sana (ثناء) of Allah, is called Mathani.(54)
According to the saying of Ibne Masuad(RA) Ibne Abbas (RA), Saeed bin Jabir, Mujahid and Zuhak (RA), Saba Mathani is the seven long surahs in which surah Al-Baqra, Ale-Imran, Al-Nisa, Al-Maida, Al-Inam, -Al-Aaraf are included but there is a little controversy about the seventh surah.
According to Saeed bin Jubair, it is surah Yunas.
It is surah Bar'at according to Imam Malik.
According to one tradition, surah Al-Anfal and surah Bar'at are included among them.
Mathani means such surahs which are shorter than Maeen (مئين) and longer than Mufasil (مفصل). It is called Mathani because seven long ayat are continuously repeated.(55)

Beside this, other more traditions or phrases are in other books of Tafseer.

Summary of Discussion about Al-Mathani Word

Most scholars believe that Saba' Mathani means sura Fateha and its seven ayat.(56)

6. Hikma Wisdom

Hikma means wisdom.(57) This word has been used for 20 times in the Holy Quran.(58) Since the present days of Madina, the word wisdom (Hikma) has been used the synonym of the Holy Quran during revelation. This word has been used in the Holy Quran because it consists of wise things.(59) According to ayat, wisdom (Hikma) means the knowledge of Nasikh aur Mansukh, Mukham aur Mutashabihat.(60) Wisdom (Hikma) also means the consequences of prophethood.(61) In Arami language, rationality is called Hikma (Wisdom). Besides this, Quran has many other adjective names, e.g., Al-Mubarik (المبارك), Al-Hakim (ا لحكيم), Al-Mubeen (ا لمبين), Al-Arabi (ا لعربی), Al-Majeed (ا لمجيد), Al-Aziz (العزيز), Al-Azeem (العظيم), Al-Sirat-ul-Mustaqeem (الصراط المسقيم), Al-Noor (النور), Al-Muazat (الموعظة), Al-Burhan (البرهان), Al-Basair (البشير), Al-Biyan (ا لبيان), Al-Ruh (الروح), Al-Wahi (ا لوحی), Al-Huda (الهدی), Al-Bainat (البينات), Al-Rahmat (الرحمة), Kalam-ul-Allah (كلام الله), Al-Mufasil (المفصل), Ahsan-ul-Hadis(الحديث احسن), Zikr (ذكری), Al-Haq (الحق), Tazkira (تذكرة), Al-Baqara (البقرة), Al-Tanzil (التنزيل), Al-Ala (العلی), Al-Shifa (الشفاء), Al-Muhimeen (المهيمن), and Al-Musadaq (المصدق) etc.(62)

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